

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (currently amended): A telecommunications system comprising:

a network;

a first node in communication with the network;

a second node in communication with the network;

at least one intermediate node in communication with the first node and the second node through the network, the first node, second node and intermediate node defining a path, the first node repeatedly sending signaling through the intermediate node to the second node and receiving the signaling back to establish and maintain a connection between the first node, second node and intermediate node; and

~~means for dynamically~~ an OAM (operation and path) matrix for placing connection points along the path through which the connection is established each time after signaling from the first node to the second node returns to the first node, the OAM matrix creates fault management and performance monitoring conditions in the first, second and intermediate nodes, the OAM path matrix disposed at each node which identifies the connection points and the fault management

and performance monitoring conditions, and instructs signaling code where to place connection points and types across the connection, the OAM matrix is global across the network, the OAM matrix maintaining the connection during times of reroute, reset, fail over or reboots.

Claims 2 and 3 (canceled)

Claim 4 (original): A system as described in Claim 3 wherein the placing means places the connection points according to the OAM path matrix based on a number of hops to the second node from the first node.

Claim 5 (previously presented): A system as described in Claim 4 wherein the connection is an ATM SPVX (switched permanent virtual plans or connections).

Claim 6 (currently amended): A method for forming connections in a telecommunications system comprising the steps of:

sending signaling repeatedly from a first node through an intermediate node to a second node of a network, the first node, second node and intermediate node defining a path;

receiving the signaling back at the first node to establish and maintain a connection between the first node, second node and intermediate node; and

placing connection points dynamically along the path with an OAM (operation and path) matrix disposed at each node through which the connection is established each time after signaling from the first node to the second node returns to the first node, including creating fault management and performance monitoring conditions with the OAM in the first, second and

intermediate nodes, the OAM matrix instructing signaling code where to place connection points and types across the connection, the OAM matrix is global across the network, the OAM matrix maintaining the connection during times of reroute, reset, fail over or reboots.

Claims 7 and 8 (canceled)

Claim 9 (currently amended): A method as described in Claim [[8]] 6 wherein the placing step includes the step of placing the connection points according to the OAM path matrix based on a number of hops to the second node from the first node.

Claim 10 (canceled)

Claim 11 (previously presented): A telecommunications system comprising:

a first node;

a second node;

at least one intermediate node in communication with the first node and the second node, the first node, second node and intermediate node defining a path, the first node repeatedly sending signaling through the intermediate node to the second node and receiving the signaling back to establish and maintain a connection between the first node, second node and intermediate node; and

means for dynamically placing connection points along the path through which the connection is established after signaling from the first node to the second node returns to the first

node, the placing means also creates fault management and performance monitoring conditions in the first, second and intermediate nodes, the placing means includes an OAM (operation and management) path matrix disposed at each node which identifies the connection points and the fault management and performance monitoring conditions, the placing means places the connection points according to the OAM path matrix based on a number of hops to the second node from the first node.

Claim 12 (previously presented): A method for forming connections in a telecommunications system comprising the steps of:

sending signaling repeatedly from a first node through an intermediate node to a second node, the first node, second node and intermediate node defining a path;

receiving the signaling back at the first node to establish and maintain a connection between the first node, second node and intermediate node; and

placing connection points dynamically along the path through which the connection is established after signaling from the first node to the second node returns to the first node, including creating fault management and performance monitoring conditions in the first, second and intermediate nodes, including the step of identifying the connection points and the fault management and performance monitoring conditions with an OAM (operation and management) path matrix disposed at each node, including the step of placing the connection points according to the OAM path matrix based on a number of hops to the second node from the first node.